

Indicator 14: Workers Employed in Industries with High Risk for Occupational Morbidity

Significanceⁱ

In 2008, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported an estimated total of 3.7 million occupational injury and illness cases within the private sector workforce. This converts to an estimated incidence rate of 3.9 occupational injury and illness cases per 100 full-time-equivalent workers. Several industries have significantly higher injury and illness rates than this national average. In 2008, 55 industries had occupational injury and illness rates at least double the national average, or ≥ 7.8 cases per 100 full-time workers. For tracking Occupational Health Indicators, these industries have been designated as high-risk for occupational morbidity. Examples include select types of manufacturing, commercial laundry and dry cleaning operations, nursing and residential care facilities, skiing facilities and certain courier and transportation industries.ⁱⁱ

Methods

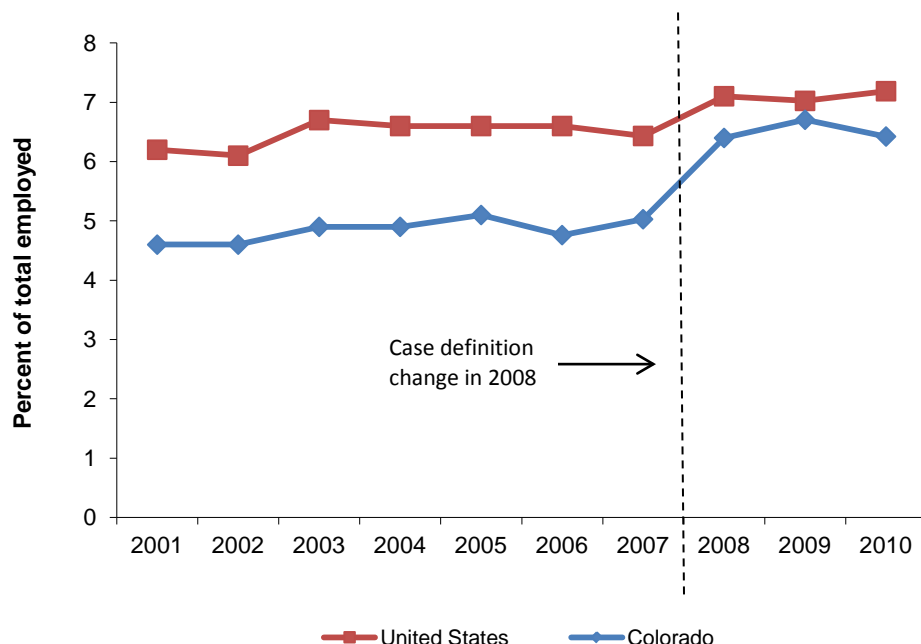
The United States Census Bureau reports the percentage of workers employed by industry in the County Business Patterns report. High-risk industries are identified based on annual injury and illness incidence rates for private sector workers. The list is updated by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) every five years. It was most recently updated for collection of 2008-2012 data.

ⁱ Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists. *Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants*. Last updated April 2012.

ⁱⁱ The complete list is available in the CSTE's *Occupational Health Indicators: A Guide for Tracking Occupational Health Conditions and Their Determinants*.

Results

Figure 14.1 Percent of workers employed in industries with high risk for occupational morbidity, Colorado and the United States 2001-2010*



Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns (CBP) (numerator and denominator)

*2008-2010 data collected according to an updated list of high-risk industries and are not comparable to prior years

Table 14.1 Percentage of Workers Employed in Industries with High Risk for Occupational Morbidity, Colorado and the United States, 2001-2010*

Year	Colorado	United States
2001	4.6	6.2
2002	4.6	6.1
2003	4.9	6.7
2004	4.9	6.6
2005	5.1	6.6
2006	4.8	6.6
2007	5.0	6.4
Average 2001-2007	4.8	6.5
2008	6.4	7.1
2009	6.7	7.0
2010	6.4	7.2
Average 2008-2010	6.5	7.1

Source: US Census Bureau County Business Patterns (CBP) (numerator and denominator)

*2008-2010 data collected according to an updated list of high-risk industries and are not comparable to prior years

Limitations

- Since the County Business Patterns estimates are calculated in March of each year, new employees for that year might not be included in the calculation.
- The ranking of high-risk industries might differ by region.
- Estimates are based on a probability sample of private sector employers and do not include all employers.
- Estimates are based on injury and illness data maintained by employers and are subject to sampling error.
- Estimates do not include the military, small farms and Federal agencies.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- Using available data from the BLS, describe employment by high-risk industry regionally in Colorado to identify potential opportunities for outreach, education and prevention activities.
- Investigate methods to identify Colorado-specific high-risk industries, which may be different from high-risk industries defined with national injury/illness statistics.